of Indian Granite has increased substantially from Rs. 3.74 crores in 1992-93 to Rs. 1,083 crores in 1995-96.

Revival of Golconda Diamond Mines

1595. SHRI GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revive the Golconda diamond mines and search for diamonds, rubies and other precious gems in Khammam, Krishna, Anantpur and Cuduppa districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether there are any proposals to develop these areas from domestic and foreign companies C-8-DE Bears' Australian companies; and

(c) whether the diamonds are exported, if so, the figures for 1994-95 and 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) The application for grant of mining leases have to be made to respective State Governments only as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. The Central Government does not monitor receipt of such applications.

As per information available Government of Andhra Pradesh has appointed M/s Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (a State Public Sector Undertaking) as the agent of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to explore and exploit Diamond and Gold resources in Andhra Pradesh (Kurnool, Anantpur, Cuddapah, Mehboobnagar, Nalgonda, Guntur, Krishna, Khammam, Prakasham, Nellore and Chittoor for Diamond and Visakhapatnam, East-Godavari and Khammam for semi-precious stones). M/s Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. invited offers both in India and abroad for the exploitation of Gold and Diamond with appropriate technical and financial strength and research & development facilities and good market share. In response to the advertisement, 32 offers had been received for Gold and 27 for diamond.

(c) Yes, diamonds are being exported. The export figures for 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as given below:

Value in Rs.'000 Quantity in '000 carats

Year	Quantity	Mostly cut value
1994-95	15,359	12,35,71,213
1995-96	18,579	15,37,44,345

Allocation of Funds for Mining Development Programmes of Gujarat

1596. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of funds for various mining development programmes in Gujarat for the remaining period of the Eighth Five Year Plan period has been finalised by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government propose to finalise the allocation to enable the State to decide its priorities?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDERA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rs. 2.00 crores have been approved by the Planning Commission for the year 1996-97.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

Establishing Mineral based Industries in Kutch District

1597. SHRI GOPAL SINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite minerals and land resorces in the Kutch disrict of Gujarat the establishment of industries based on minerals could not be made there;